(d) total debt service payments during 2000-01 (RE) amounted to Rs. 2,28,955 crore and is budgeted at Rs. 2,38,272 crore during 2001-02.

Foreign holdings in nationalised banks

2312. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there exists 20 per cent cap on foreign holdings in nationalised banks;

(b) whether there is no such provision on foreign holdings in the SBI Act; and

(c) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken to provide cap on foreign holdings in the SBI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) foreign investment in nationalised banks is governed in terms of the provisions of Section 3 (2D) of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980, which provides that no individual or company resident outside India shall at anytime hold or acquire, by transfer or otherwise, shares of nationalised banks more than 20 per cent of their paid up capital. Similar provision is not there in the State Bank of India Act, 1955 . However, RBI has prescribed similar ceiling of 20 per cent in case of State Bank of India, also, as provided for nationalised banks under the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970/1980.

Setting up of RBI branch in Tripura

2313. SHRI KHAGEN DAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the long-standing demand of the State Government of Tripura with regard to setting up of Branch Office of RBI in the State Capital;

(b) if so, by when Government propose to go for it; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) : Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has

reported that the Government business in the State of Tripura is being handled by two public sector banks *viz.* State bank of India and United Bank of India, who have committed infrastructure in the State which has established in that area. Reserve Bank of India has only one office in the 7 North-Eastern States at Guwahati, which caters to the needs of all these States, including Assam, the functions pertaining to Government transactions in the States where RBI does not have an office have been delegated to the State Bank of India and other public sector banks which are having wide branch network. RBI is of the view that presently there is no need for it to open a sub-office at Tripura. RBI has further reported that it is its endeavour to focus on core central banking activities and distance itself from retail banking business.

National Savings Organisation

†2314. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the time, when the National Savings Organisation was set up and Government's objective for setting up the same;

(b) the administrative expenditure incurred on the National Savings Organisation each year;

(c) the year-wise gross and net collections of National Savings Organisation since its inception to year 2000-2001; and

(d) the assessment conducted by the Ministry of Finance with regard to its work since its inception to year 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) National Savings Organisation (NSO) was constituted in 1948 with the objective of inculcating the habit of thrift and savings among the masses and for promoting small savings schemes of the Government of India.

(b) Administrative expenditure on the NSO during 1999-2000 was Rs. 17.29 crore. Revised Estimates in 2000-01 were Rs. 18.45 crore and Budget Estimates during the current financial year are Rs. 20.89 crore.

(c) Year-wise gross and net small savings collections from 1977-78 to 2000-2001 (provisional) are given in Statement (*See* below).

(d) National Savings Organisation (NSO) was established at a time when the banking system in the country was underdeveloped. Banking habits

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.